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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,526	02/12/2004	Chun-Yung Huang	3624-0154P	4154

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EXAMINER

HUNTER, ALVIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,526	HUANG, CHUN-YUNG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alvin A. Hunter	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 6, "said positioning protrusion is adapted" should read --said positioning protrusions are adapted--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu (USPN 6780124).

Regarding claim 1, Lu discloses a golf club head comprising a body having a recess in a front side thereof, and a striking plate including a striking face on the front side thereof for striking a golf ball, a plurality of positioning protrusions projecting from a perimeter of the striking plate wherein the positioning protrusions are adapted to provide a tolerance in an assembling step so as to define a welding channel thereof and connected to the recession of the body in a welding step by a welding portion formed on the welding channel such that the welding portion securely mounts the striking plate in the recess of the body and wherein the striking plate is inserted into the recess of the body and the positioning protrusions engage with an inner perimeter delimiting the

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recess and simplifying assembling and positioning for a subsequent welding procedure. Lu does not disclose the protrusions plastically deforming when engaging the inner perimeter. Lu teaches the protrusions for the sole purpose of holding the striking face in position while welding it to the club head. One having ordinary skill in the art would have sought to use techniques such as snap-fitting which plastic deformation occurs into order to hold the striking face in position while being welded, therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have the protrusions plastically deform in order to facilitate securing the striking face to the club head body.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Applicant does not disclose why the distance of protrusions from the inner perimeter and the width is critical in order to attain the disclosed invention. One having ordinary skill in the art would have drawn from Lu that the distance between each protrusion may be of any width and the distance of the protrusions from the inner perimeter may be of any distance. The factors would have been determining by the materials used and size of the club head, therefore, making the dimensions obvious.

Regarding claim 6, Lu discloses the plurality of protrusions defining a space for receiving filler (See Figure 5 and Column 3, lines 27 through 39).

Regarding claim 7, Applicant does not disclose why the shape of the protrusion is critical in order to attain the invention. Lu discloses cylindrical shaped protrusions in which perform equally as that of the applicant's protrusions. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have protrusions of any shape so long as the protrusion facilitate attachment of the face plate to the club head body.

Regarding claim 8, Lu discloses the welding procedure being high energy welding (See Summary of the invention).

Regarding claim 9, the type of welding claimed by the applicant refers to a product by process. One would have found Lu to meet this limitation being that the final product is the same.

Regarding claim 18, Lu discloses a golf club head comprising a body having a recess in a front side thereof, and a striking plate including a striking face on the front side thereof for striking a golf ball, a plurality of positioning protrusions projecting from a perimeter of the striking plate wherein the positioning protrusions are adapted to provide a tolerance in an assembling step so as to define a welding channel thereof and connected to the recession of the body in a welding step by a welding portion formed on the welding channel such that the welding portion securely mounts the striking plate in the recess of the body and wherein the striking plate is inserted into the recess of the body and the positioning protrusions engage with an inner perimeter delimiting the recess and simplifying assembling and positioning for a subsequent welding procedure. Lu does not disclose the protrusions plastically deforming when engaging the inner perimeter. Lu teaches the protrusions for the sole purpose of holding the striking face in position while welding it to the club head. One having ordinary skill in the art would have sought to use techniques such as snap-fitting which plastic deformation occurs into order to hold the striking face in position while being welded, therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to have the protrusions plastically deform in order to facilitate securing the striking face to the club head body. , Lu

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discloses the welding procedure being high energy welding (See Summary of the invention). The type of welding claimed by the applicant refers to a product by process. One would have found Lu to meet this limitation being that the final product is the same.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu (USPN 6780124) in view of applicant's admission.

Regarding claim 2, Lu does not disclose have a stepped portion for supporting the striking plate. Applicant admits in the background of the invention that it is old and conventional for the club head to have a stepped portion within the recess for supporting a striking face and therefore, would have been obvious to incorporate for such reason (See Pages 1 and 2).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu (USPN 6780124) in view of Su (USPN 5713800).

Regarding claim 5, Lu does not disclose the protrusion having an inclined bottom surface. Su shows, in Figure 3, the protrusions having a inclined bottom surface. One having ordinary skill in the art would have drawn therefrom Figure 3 that the inclined surface help facilitate insertion of the striking face being that the outer periphery of the club head body is smaller than the interior with the groove. This allows for the striking face to be bent to where the protrusions do not create any obstruction while the striking face is being inserted. Therefore have the bottom of the protrusions inclined would have been obvious because of the above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-17 are allowed.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4411. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Vidovich, can be reached on 571-272-4415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AAH

Alvin A. Hunter, Jr.


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